



POURING INTO THE NEXT GENERATION

Jerry Phillips joined the Carmel family in 1977 and was active in serving - including in Carmel's Preschool Ministry.

Upon her passing in November, parent and fellow Preschool Ministry volunteer Nicole Tallent-Smith shared this reflection on the impact Miss Jerry made in the lives of the young children and parents she served here at Carmel.



Miss Jerry was a little lady with a big heart for young children - a faithful teacher who rarely ever missed a Sunday and longed to be in the classroom each week. At the beginning of each ministry school year, she took pride in getting her Sunday morning classroom roster and she set to work to learn each child's name and those of their parents. I know for a fact that she prayed for each and every child, by name, throughout each week. She loved to send cards and notes to the kids in her class to let them know they were special and loved, too.

In recent years, Miss Jerry would talk to me about how frustrated she was with her dysphonia, the condition she had that affected her vocal cords. She was so afraid they wouldn't be able to understand her as she read the Bible. But she pressed on faithfully. She shared that she was always tired on Sundays because all of the talking wore her out. **But she did not EVER stop trying to talk about Jesus.**



She loved her children. She was the happiest when she was teaching her little ones about Jesus!

- Lynn Phillips Turner

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

- Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Miss Jerry was fiercely devoted to learning her Bible lesson material and preparing for Sunday mornings each week too. If a story was challenging or if she was struggling to explain something to young 3 year olds, she would come talk to me or text during the week and seek advice. **I so loved her heart in wanting to give her best to God and to the little ones in her room.** She was an encourager to me on Sundays and throughout the week. I loved to have her in large group because every single Sunday she stood up and sang and did the motions too. **She did not expect just the kids to participate—she set the example and she modeled worship herself!**

I will always remember Miss Jerry with a smile. She was an incredible lady who impacted not just Preschoolers, but others like me who watched how she lived and served. **She was the happiest while teaching the Bible, with children sitting at her feet.** As much as I will miss her here, I take such comfort in knowing that she is now sitting at the feet of the Savior she loved and served so well! **Oh, that we might continue to love and serve with the faithfulness and humility of our beloved Miss Jerry!**

Miss Jerry was my son's 3 year old Sunday morning teacher and we loved her so much! Our son had a hard time leaving us and she made it easier for him. She always asked about him whenever she saw me and Sammy still loves her to this day. He also enjoyed seeing her in "big church" and catching up with her because she was always warm and welcoming with us!

- Heather King



Carmel is committed to making disciples of those Nearest, our Neighbors and the Nations.

1145 Pineville-Matthews Road / Matthews, NC 28105 / 704.847.8575 / carmelbaptist.org